

OGC 73-0141

2 February 1973

Personal and Confidential

Judge Joseph M. F. Ryan, Jr.
Superior Court of the District
of Columbia
Building B - Room 319
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Judge Ryan:

One of our employees who is not permitted for security considerations to reveal his employment by the Agency has been summoned to appear for jury service in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia commencing February 6, 1973. We bring this matter to your attention inasmuch as other judges in this area believe that such employees should not serve on a jury since they cannot, if queried during voir dire or other proceedings, reveal the true nature of their employment. Judge Sirica of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, for instance, does not permit such employees to serve on a jury and Judge Sorrell of your Court also is aware of the special problems faced by this Agency in such situations.

The purpose of this letter is to request your advice on whether these employees should serve on a jury in your Court. Of course, employees of this Agency who can publicly disclose their affiliation with the Agency will continue to serve on juries in any jurisdiction, when summoned. We seek excuses for these employees only in the most compelling cases.

The employee in the instant case is identified by a copy of the jury summons returned under separate cover, and we ask

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that this letter and the name of the employee not be joined together. [REDACTED] of my office will be pleased to meet with you to explain the circumstances further if you desire. He can be reached at the following number: [REDACTED] STATINTL

We appreciate your efforts and those of Judge Sorrell on our behalf and request your opinion on this matter as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

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Lawrence R. Houston
General Counsel

JGB:ks

Distribution:

Original - Addressee (hand-carried by JGB 2/2/73)
✓ - JURY DUTY
1 - JGB Signer
1 - Chrono

NOTE:

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[REDACTED] was excused from jury duty per meeting w/Judge Ryan on 2 February 1973. Subject has been notified of above action. JGB Original of jury duty summons returned to [REDACTED] and cy [REDACTED] STATINTL for OGC Subject file.

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STATINTL

SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA4TH AND E STREETS, NW
COURTROOM NUMBER 7

FEBRUARY 6, 1973

845 AM

DATE

TIME

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED BY THIS COURT
TO APPEAR FOR A TERM OF JURY SERVICE
TO BEGIN AT THE PLACE AND TIME SHOWN

PET IT JUROR

****666

By order
of the Court }

JOSEPH M. BURTON

01/02/73

CLERK OF THE COURT

DATE

IMPORTANT NOTICE

1. Jurors who are not employed by the Federal or District of Columbia Government will receive for each day's attendance \$20 plus mileage at 10¢ per mile from residence to court and return. Government employees, both Federal and District, will receive their regular pay without deduction from other leave authorized by statute, plus mileage.
2. If there is grave illness in your family or a similarly serious problem which would cause an undue hardship or extreme inconvenience if you should serve as a juror, you must appear in person on the Manday immediately before the date shown above, at 9:30 a. m., at the place shown and explain the facts relating thereto. You will be free to depart from the courthouse as soon as the judge has ruled upon your excuse. Bring with you any supporting letter from your physician or other persons. This appearance will not entitle you to service or mileage fees.
3. If you are physically unable to appear on the Manday mentioned in paragraph 2 above to request excuse from jury service because of illness, you must notify the court immediately by letter, describing the illness. You should use the back of this form for your letter; and if you are under the care of a physician, the letter should be accompanied by a certificate from your physician.
4. Unless you receive a notice from this court granting a requested temporary excuse, or unless the court notifies you by card or phone to report at a different time, you must attend as directed in this summons. Failure to obey this summons may be punishable by fine and/or imprisonment.
5. Please fill out the enclosed card and return it at once in the enclosed free postage envelope whether or not you are, or wish to be, temporarily excused.
6. The U. S. Marshall has no control over the jury lists and cannot excuse any person from jury duty.

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